

Speech by Mr. Aniceto Rodriguez from the Socialist Party of Chile, held on March 20, 1981 in Aruba.

Brother Betico Croes, President of the International Conference, Friends, Brother Delegates, Militants in the M.E.P.

The subject regarding human rights is a broad one. And we will have to go thru long periods of analysis and presentation.

It is a subject that is almost inexhaustible to the degree to which the assaults on the dignity of men have been occurring repeatedly, particularly in our sadly attacked Latin American continent.

If we examine history, ever since Cain killed Abel, be it a legend or reality, the historical events can speak of many many attacks of the dignity of the human being.

The war of the old empires or the most modern ones caused many many individual and collective crimes. The struggle for freedom against the slavery of men consumes centuries and it is a long process that covers almost all history to-date.

The desire of the oppressors, religious fanaticism, have uncountable victims. Scientific investigation is hindered every time when attempts to go beyond the temple, which attempted to eliminate the renewable ideas.

Each challenge pays a price, a high one or low one, according to their daring to attack the status of their time. But everything is a struggle, everything moves, rebellion, progress, advance, creation.

Together with injustice, we see the struggle for justice; with attacks and assaults we look for defense that seeks the right and do with the negation of the rights of the dignity of men, ideals, movement and philosophic and political conceptions are created, which develop humanism as an essential humanism as the basis for universal living together.

Now physical or spiritual oppression lives forever, no matter how unhappy the situation may be. This has occurred forever. Jesus, at the time as a martyr on the cross, planted a powerful religious current. The most powerful of all times. Spartacus, gladiator of the Liberty, sacrificed with his brother slave but he inspired the anti-slave movement and many modern movements.

Galileo Galilei, was a victim of inquisition, but land continued to be moved defying anti-scientific dogma. Joan of Arc was sacrificed but afterwards she built, what was called, immortal friends.

Abraham Lincoln was murdered by those in favour of slavery, but the legendary comment that was referred to by Pablo Neruda, he was the greatest in the saving of the political rights of the people of America.

Mahadma Ghandi was not a fanatic, but his fragile figure is venerated by all to-day. To him India owes his independence and freedom. Some Indians were burnt or drawn in quarters by the invaders of his sovereign land. But they left the seed that the liberators left, which struggled for the Latin American independence.

From 1800 to 1810 we say the plan and the example of our Indian leaders. There were hundreds of thousands and perhaps millions as time passed. Full generations of blacks that were made slaves in Africa and brought by the shameful slave traffic of that time.

But slavery was defeated and the children and great children of those slaves of yesterday today lead the free and sovereign countries in Africa, in the Caribbean and in America.

The law of life shows that people must advance continuously. The law of history does not stop for anyone and goes beyond the abuse and the attacks on the dignity of human beings.

In this subject, we must recall the modern period. For us, in this Continent, it starts going beyond the abuse of the colonizer and beyond incomprehension, crimes and attacks.

The freedom and independence of Latin America occur as men like Morelos, Hidalgo, Macedo, Bolivar, Sucre, Artigas, San Martin and so many others, founders of a home-land go beyond and built the concept of freedom of our people.

And even closer in time, we find other contributions, with planned all kind of victories in our minds. These are the Chicago martyrs f.i. with their sacrifice they managed the first social victories of times, this is the initial capitalism that was abusing the people and the martyrs of Chicago illuminate the proletariats of all the world. And recently there are other values that appear. For example in Central America the general of free men who impose upon themselves the task of eliminating the dictatorships of Somoza. Augusto Caesar Sandino, the general of the free men, who illuminated the victory in the sister nation of Nicaragua.

In Venezuela there have been many martyrs, who made it possible to achieve independence, freedom and democracy. Our friends of Accion Democratica have rendered tribute to Alberto Carnvalli, Luis Salinas, Pineda etc.

But in this times, my dear friends and delegates, the dignity of the people are still being attacked. North-American blacks continue to suffer today from the Ku Klux Klan which has descrimination against the blacks in the United States.

And just recently, in the decade of the 30s and the 40s, the intolerance of Nazi-fæcism filled the concentration camps with so many that were exterminated and that intolerable Nazism had to be vanquished by the political and military forces of the world.

In Hiroshima and Nagasaki we can recall the atomic Holocaust that killed tens of thousands of people and later on in the world of extermination , Vietnam felt the imperialistic aggression.

And in Africa we have the policy of the Apartheid and the Palestine people know that they have the right to live on their own land.

And in El Salvador, the farmers and workers and intellectuals are being killed for getting the universal charter of human rights.

And then we have the list of the unfortunate people who have disappeared; in Argentina there are more than 200.000 who have been lost and the same figures are to be found in Uruguay.

And in our country Chile with a long democratic history with Nobel Prizes Gabriel Abejestrál and Pablo Neruda. Chile, towards a new conquest of a new society, under vital impulse of the Socialist martyr, Salvador Allende. There the examples of those who have disappeared have become multiplied and according to our International there are more than 50 thousands who have disappeared in all the countries of Latin America which undergo dictatorship.

Brother Carlos Gallardo was speaking to us yesterday and talking about the drama of Guatemala. How many of us can recall the vital and brilliant presence that was given to us by brother Fuentes Moor, a distinguished Guatemalan murdered by the hoards of the dictatorship of that country. The same is Colonagreta, the distinguished teacher of Guatemala. In El Salvador Arch Bishop Romero was murdered.

And in Bolivia, the drug traffickers, those who assault the power, just recently murdered the Socialist leader Marcelo Quirroga. And in Chile the rosary of pain and sacrifices started with the death of brother Salvador Allende, who preferred not to abdicate or run away, but to die with his flag and banner still waving.

I believe this brief summary of the history of the assaults on human rights can serve as an example and an encouragement to continue in our struggle, not to lose faith. And thus following this struggle of our people I would say to Ruben Berrios that he must not lose the faith that Puerto

Rico tomorrow or the day after to-morrow will achieve his Independence and his Freedom.

I would like to tell Maurice Bishop from Grenada that he is not alone in the phase of the permanent conspiracy against his people.

I would like to tell Carlos Callardo we are not only solidarily behind him but we trust that Guatemala as Nicaragua will also achieve liberty and dignity ^{and} expell the dictatorship from that country.

And finally to brother Betico Croes in his struggle to achieve self determination, decolonization and full freedom, Betico Croes, the M.E.P. and the people of Aruba, will achieve this, based not only on this wealth of support from the struggle of peoples but they follow the truth and they follow the inevitable path of history.

Brother delegates, the problem of human rights does not lie in the interpretation or the denouncement made systematically of the assaults and the physical torture of people . Because why are human rights assaulted in the Third World and in general and specifically in Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

We have to get to the bottom of the problem. Not only denounce the specific attacks that occur every day in our countries and in our nations. We have to see that the genesis of the assault on human beings forms a part of the theory of dependency that has occurred in the glowing reality of Latin America.

Taking up the banner of the defense of human rights, we also have to assume a guiding policy to reach fundamental causes of where these rights of men have been assaulted.

Hence we believe to defeat this policy of assault on the sovereignty of our people and the dignity of men and people, we must intensify the struggle for defeating organized lies that is expressed in many ways, using the communication that is managed by transnationals, the empires and all the factors of dominations.

In the first place to defeat the false economic theories that are imposed on our peoples who have specific realities that cannot support the imposition of certain policies which end by imprisoning and committing the national bourgeoisies who place themselves at the surface of the international companies that exploit them.

These are the denounceable activities, the credit of the IMF who has abusive situations for the æonomy of our people.

So for instance that policy denied the Chilean experience all the short and medium-time credit economically to asphyxiate the new reality that was occurring in our country.

The IMF is an accomplice in the defeat of Salvador Allende and an accomplice in the defeat of Brother Manley on the island of Jamaica.

The IMF creates with the transnationals a power super structure which is projected to the internal realities and commits the policy of the armed forces. Antagonizers they are, they are units that depend of the North American Pentagon in many countries, which as Carlos Morales stated, which speak of the false doctrine of the National Security to deform sovereignty of the defense of the territories, to act as advanced vanguards of the exploitation of our people, creating a system which then conclude in the assault on Human rights due to the collective feelings it awakes in our people, this factor of economic military domination.

And then we have to say that another organized lie which has to be eliminated is the false conception of terrorism, as we can see it from the conservative point of view and has just occurred Mr. Reagan when assuming the Presidency of the United States.

The cynicism of this matter, we can anticipate that there will be no doubt that the Chilean Socialist, the conception that I defend in my political organization, we categorically condemn the acts of terrorism of the ultra-left that take advantage to harm us and we must be very clear about this. We condemn the acts of unnecessary terrorism of the extreme left.

But let's go piece by piece. We are consistent with what we say but we don't agree with the reactionaries of the Continent, who condemn those acts when they come from the ultra left but they close their eyes when the terrorists acts are committed by their para military and reactionary conservative forces.

Mr. Reagan, for instance, has not condemned the crimes of the three "A"s in Argentina that killed the best sons of our sister nation of Argentina. They have not condemned the murders of the death squadrons in Brazil.

Nothing has been said of the deaths in Bolivia, the collective murders.

After an interruption, Mr. Rodriguez continued. As I was saying that the international hypocrisy on the problem of terrorism in the case of Chile becomes manifest when Pinochet dictated a series of repressive measures against our people, according to him, to combat leftist terrorism.

But all the conservative currents of continent have remained silent when the agents of Pinochet murdered General Bats in Buenos Aires, a democratic general, a constitutionalist who defended the legitimate regime of brother Salvador Allende.

They have been silent and they used no legal action when our former minister of Foreign Affairs was murdered in Washington, brother Orlando Letelier.

They have been quite when the cementaries of those that have disappeared which is a result of the terrorism of the right, the neo-fascist of the regime of Pinochet.

That is why I believe that this Conference, dear President and brother delegates, should have an expressed resolution to bring to light this type of terrorism and to tell the truth about this very difficult problem.

But the doctrine and national security, the work of the transnationals, the political work of the conservative forces, have created the theory of independence on the continent and given rise to continuous outrages.

That is why we have to be clear as to the problem. It is not just the will of a dictator to assault the dignity of human beings. It is a result of the system that oppresses our countries.

On this we should be very clear in each international tribune and face up to the great imperial powers. We have to promote union among the oppressed to create a situation where true liberation can occur.

As we have pointed to the assault of the dignity of men, adequate responses have arisen. Each period of humanity stresses collective answers.

From the ten commandments of Moses when they established: Thou shalt not kill, we start the process of the defensive response of the people. Ever since the Decalogue to the Declaration of the Rights of Men, humanity has made universal proposals to create defensive mechanism.

In 1789 we had a response and received the Charter of the Rights of Citizen which inspired the whole process of the French Revolution.

At the end of the second world war, Franklin Delano Roosevelt established the four basic freedoms: freedom of expression, freedom for cult and creed, freedom from fear and freedom from need, freedom from poverty. Four liberties gathered together in the line of the tragic experience that nazi fascism left with us during the last World War.

And the new International Community in 1948 prepared the Universal declaration of the rights of men which establishes the rights that protect the dignity of human beings.

In the Committee of Resolutions we have proposed that the International Declaration of the Rights of Men should be included in the Constitutions of all the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Furtheron, understanding that it is not only a matter of defending and protecting the integrity of the human being but that there are other facts that are common in the realities of our peoples, thanks to the initiative of the ex president Echevarria, the Charter of the Economic Rights and Duty of the states is included, which was highly encouraged in 1972 in the meeting of the UNTAD held in Santiago, where it was supported by Salvador Allende together with all the other peoples to this Mexican initiative, that today is an international charter.

The right of asylum which is a juridical expression of the Latin American genius, the Pact of San Jose and so many others have created also a defensive juridical body that in practice many times is irrespected by the governments of the continent.

But to summarize, Mr. Chairman, I believe that the lesson we must learn from the analysis and the policy of Human Rights, is first of all that this policy will not be guaranteed for our continent until we break the chains of colonialism and neo-colonialism, as long as in the United States an imperialistic policy is applied. As long as the peoples are not capable of correcting the brutal behaviour of the armies that instead of being at the service of the true national sovereignty, serve alien intervention and interests.

As long as the new societies are not attained, where there is a political, practical coherence among governments and those who are governed, this will be the most important key to obtain our independence.

To protect our political decision we have proposed and we submitted to the consideration of the assembly, a series of proposals. First, I repeat, to incorporate or include in each Constitution, the Universal Charter of Human Rights. Second, that in this Conference we should approve the idea of constituting what I call the Court of the Peoples. In other words, a Court formed by distinguished personalities from all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. That would be an open tribune to denounce all the outrageous against the dignity of our peoples. To listen at all these problems and that this Court become the speaker of all of us who cannot speak in Latin America because they are maintained silent by the dictators.

We also wish that once more a great will of struggle against

armamentism be put forth in Latin America to support the Tratlelolco Treaty that has been violated by Argentina and Brazil. We want to intensify the struggle for disarmament in Latin America. With weapons only the great producing plants of arms and weapons of North America have something to gain and the only thing we gain from it is a greater support of strength for the dictatorships that exist in our continent. The annual budgets are multiplied and a great deal of money is waisted in these weapons, money that would be needed for health, services, education and housing. We also wish to accept the proposals made by our brother Bishop to contribute to create a sea of peace in the Caribbean and also for all the seas that surround the Latin American continent.

We do not wish that for Latin America be projected the policy of blocks because this is also a form of outrage to the human rights. We should group ourselves, all of us the non-allied; we should not support this block policies that conduce in many occasions to invasions of some of our peoples.

Finally we would like for this assembly to condemn Pinochet for having tried to legitimize his ascent to power based on a false constitution. That is why Mr. Chairman, I would like to close my remarks saying that all the problem of the human rights is not an isolated or singular topic separated from the overall aspect of the struggle of peoples.

The Charter of the United Nations is violated only because there is a system of exploitation and domination in the continent, we have to be clear about this. And it is on the basis of this that we have to take in our hands the message we received yesterday. 1980 should project itself in 1981. The struggle is continental, it's a unique struggle. It is a commitment for all of us. And us, the Chileans who are oppressed to-day, but that will be freed by the internal resistance and our will; we put forward the message of Bolivar that tells us to unify ourselves. The future of Aruba is the future of Chile, the future of Chile is the future of Venezuela, that of Venezuela if the future of Bolivia and thus all of our peoples are committed in the same historical deed.

Following delegates, we have to defeat the physical and political fears and all the ideologies that are alien to our continental being. We have to defeat the false geopolitical concepts that only serve to dominate complete areas of our continent. We have to tell Mr. Reagan that we are not his backyard, we are a gigantic continent that tomorrow sooner than later will find its political, administrative, cultural and economic unity.

We have to be capable of responding to the threats we are facing, we have, Mr. Chairman, to respond that the generations of the year 2000 will know that we carried out our duties and obligations.

Let us then search the political, practical and theoretical coherence to deserve the message that we are going to give and leave as inheritance to the future generations.

And to close my remarks, I would like to say to Betico Croes that we are sure and confident that the symbol of the sea gull you have for your party, will be the symbol of those who go up and up into the sky to attain real freedom.

That the national anthem of Aruba will be sang by the future generations with great proud and that the new Aruban banner will always be free in the wind together with all the free flags of the Latin American continent.

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